(a) to (d). The Central Government makes bulk allocation of rice, wheat, sugar edible oils to State Governments/UT Administrations for distribution under the PDS and the internal distribution within the State is undertaken by them. Decisions regarding scale of entitlement, periodicity of availability at the fair price shops, inter District and intra regional allocations including rural and urban areas are made by the State Government/ UT Administrations. The scale of entitlement to rural and urban consumers may vary from one State to another and even vary from District to District within the same state.

2. Allocation of foodgrains, levy sugar, edible oils is made on a month to month basis taking into account factors such as availability of stocks in Central Pool (Central Government), market availability seasonality factor and inter-se requirements of State/UTs. Allocation of PDS commodities are supplemental in nature and is not intended to meet the entire requirements of the States/ UTs.

3. During the year 1991 ad-hoc increase in the allocation of rice was made to State/UTs keeping in view the lean season factor for kharif cereals in August to October, 1991. Smilarly ad-hoc increase of 5% in the allocation of levy sugar was made to the State Government from August, 1991 till March, 1992.

**Production of Vegetable Oil**

3535. SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of the Government with the production of vegetable oils in the country;

(b) whether the Government propose to make the vegetable 'ghee' colorful and other vegetable oils in order to check the increasing adulteration in pure 'ghee' in the large interest of public health;

(c) if so, whether any effective steps are being taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The Government of India vide its Press Note No. 9 dated 1.8.91 have delicensed the production of vegetable oils in the country subject to certain locational restrictions. However, the crushing of Rape seed oil/ Mustard oil, Sesame oil (except solvent extracted) and Ground nut oil (except solvent extracted ) are reserved for Small Scale Sector.

(b) to (d). A technical expert committee constituted in 1960 to find suitable color for vanaspati, submitted its report in 1965, which concluded that colorisation of vanaspati is neither practical nor desirable. The Committee felt that latent colourisation of vanaspati with sesame oil then in force should amply save the purpose. This is being currently followed.

**Biotechnology park in Kerala**

3536. SHRI K. MURALEE DHARAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which the Bio-Technology park in Kerala is proposed to be started functioning; and

(b) the stage at which the work relating to completion of the park stands at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b). there is no project proposal on the setting up of a biotechnology park forwarded by the Government of Kerala. However an action plan on Ernakulam as a Biotechnology district has been under examination by a high level expert committee of the State Government. The final project document has not yet been received.

**Joint Venture with Indonesia to produce Palm Oil**

3537. KUMAR PUSHPA DEVI SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to set up joint ventures with Indonesea to produce palm oil;

(b) if so, the name of the places identified for setting up palm oil production units; and

(c) the cost of those units each and site selected for the location of each of those units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

**Government Accommodation to Reporters**

3538. SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of reporters accredited by the Press Information Bureau who have been allotted Government accommodation;

(b) the number of residential accommodation in the reporters pool; and

(c) whether the number of residential accommodation in the pool is proposed to be increased keeping in view the increasing number of reporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Ninety-three accredited Press Correspondents and News Cameramen have been allotted Government accommodation from the existing Press Pool.

(b) and (c). The allotment under the Press Pool were frozen till May, '90 when it was decided to revive and increase the number of units in the Press Pool from 110 to 120 units. Guidelines for allotment were also under review and have been recently finalised. Allotments for the increased number will commence soon.

[*English*]

**Growth of Small Scale Industries**

3539. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the hurdles faced by the Small Scale Industries in their growth perspectives throughout the Seventh Plan period;

(b) the growth rate of Small Scale Industries in the Seventh Plan period; and

(c) the growth rate to Small Scale Industries expected in the Eighth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): (a) Some of the problems faced